



San Antonio Parks and Recreation Department

## CITY OF SAN ANTONIO

P. O. BOX 839966  
SAN ANTONIO TEXAS 78283-3966

### **News Release SA Parks and Recreation Department**

**Date:** June 16, 2009

**Contact:** Kelly Irvin/207-6122 or  
Pager #603-9418

### ***Contemporary Art Month activities garner national award For Parks and Recreation Department***

The San Antonio Parks and Recreation Department's Contemporary Art Month (CAM) activities have been honored the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) 2009 Dorothy Mullen Award for innovative arts and humanities programming.

The department's Special Programs Section coordinates participation in the citywide event held throughout the month of July each year. Activities have included a student/instructor art exhibit in La Villita, workshops for students ages six to 14, and *Merging Modes*, an evening of collaborative performances.

"This is outstanding news. This award is the result of the hard work of the dedicated staff in the parks department," says Assistant Director Janet Martin. "Our recreational programs are a source of enjoyment for the entire community. This recognition allows us to showcase our pride in our program offerings to the entire nation."

In order to win this national award, the program first had to win the Texas Park and Recreation Society (TRAPS) state Arts and Humanities Award and then the Southwest Region of NRPA Arts & Humanity Award.

The recipients of NRPA awards will be honored at the organization's 2009 Congress and Exposition in October in Salt Lake City.

Named after recreation and parks pioneer Dorothy Mullen, the award honors the most innovative and effective arts and humanities programs across the United States and aims to inspire others who may consider developing similar programs in their areas. The awards are based on the size of the population served by the program and are judged on content, innovation, contribution to the community and the expansion of interest in the arts

**-more-**

## **Dorothy Mullen/2**

and humanities.

The Parks and Recreation Department has participated in CAM since 2004. The contributions have included an annual July art exhibit, workshop for youth to explore contemporary art to include clay, paper mache and group mural instructions, workshops focusing on the exploration of modern techniques such as Andy Warhol and Pablo Picasso and collographs, three dimensional sculptures made with found objects.

Additionally, the program includes collaboration between visual artists and local modern dance choreographers in an event called *Merging Modes*. Contemporary choreographers merge with visual design or graphic artists to create new work in both performance and exhibition modes.

NRPA is a national not-for-profit organization dedicated to advancing park, recreation and conservation efforts that enhance quality of life for all people.

##